

Training Provides Reassurance

System Safety Department Stages Orientation Session For Visually Impaired Students

When it comes to District goals, passenger safety is "numero uno" and, of course, safety is especially critical for passengers who are visually impaired.

BART says "Welcome!" to passengers who are blind or have sight impairments that affect their ability to move safely within a station to or from a train. BART facilities are completely accessible to visually-impaired passengers.

Every spring, BART's System Safety Department provides orientation training for students from the Orientation Center for the Blind, California School for the Blind, Rose Resnick Lighthouse, Fremont Unified School District, Living Skills Center, Richmond School District, Lions Blind Center, San Mateo Unified School District, and the Department of Rehabilitation for the Visually Impaired.

To put a new BART twist on an old saying, "Familiarity breeds confidence." The more visually-impaired passengers know about BART station and cars, the more their confidence will be boosted. They will be more willing to use the system.

An out-of-service BART train, operated by Gerald Morris, was used in the orientation at the 19th Street Station in Oakland.

Coordinating this year's orientation was Pamela Moffett. Helping out, from the Department of Transportation, were Fred Braese, Heather Hawkins and Betty Soo-Hoo, from BART's System Safety Department, Bob Campbell, Dale Wensler, Norma Del Mercado, Sookie Prado, Lee Cohen, Dick Pasini and Henry Miranda. **b**



Working to ensure the smooth running of BART's annual orientation training for visually impaired students were, from left, Norma Del Mercado, Kathy Ross, Bob Campbell and Pamela Moffett.

All Smiles for Mary and Brenda



Mary Perez (left), and Brenda Blue are happy about the success of this year's Summer Youth Job Program. Mary assumed the coordination of the program in July, when Brenda, who had supervised the program for 11 years, transferred to the Transportation Department.

Summer Youth Program Marks 13th Year With Real Job Experience

One-hundred and seven high-school students from Alameda and Contra Costa County took part in BART's Summer Youth Job Program, which is administered by the Affirmative Action Department.

They worked at various jobs at different locations in practically all parts of the District. One of the youths, Teva Garron, worked for Jim Gallagher, the District's Assistant General Manager.

"Teva was great!" says Brenda Blue, who along with Martin Yi coordinated the summer program for the eleventh year in a row. "She helped me organize this year's program and showed so much initiative, she went on to work for the Assistant General Manager," Brenda says with pride.

Helping teen-aged students comes naturally to Brenda. She has a son, Malgy, Jr., 19, who goes to UC Berkeley, and a daughter, Brenaia, 16, who goes to Holly Names High School in Oakland.

When Brenda took over the program there were only five participants, but that number gradually grew through the years.

Ten agencies help provide the students for BART's summer program including the Business Academy, the Computer

see **Youth** – page 7

Holiday Faire – Are You Ready?

see page 5

Fong, Graham, Riddle Win Top Honors



Gregory Graham, Gary Fong and James Riddle, Jr., proudly hold the trophies they won at the International Rail Rodeo, competing in the maintenance category against representatives from ten other transit agencies. They are flanked by Assistant General Manager Jim Gallagher (left), and General Manager Dick White and Director Roy Nakadegawa.

Compete Against Ten Transit Agencies

Gary Fong, Gregory Graham and James Riddle, Jr., representing BART in the International Rail Rodeo, walked off with top honors in the maintenance category.

They competed against workers from the Chicago Transit Authority, the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority, Metro Dade Transit (Miami), the Metro North (portions of New Jersey and New York), New York City Transit Authority, New Jersey Transit, TriMet (Portland), Sacramento Regional Transit and Santa Clara Transit.

Competition included a written test, component identification in an "electronic mystery box," a light board series, a torque wrench application, wheel gauge measurements, a nut and bolt dexterity plate, tool identification, defective component identification and a motor control contact changeout.

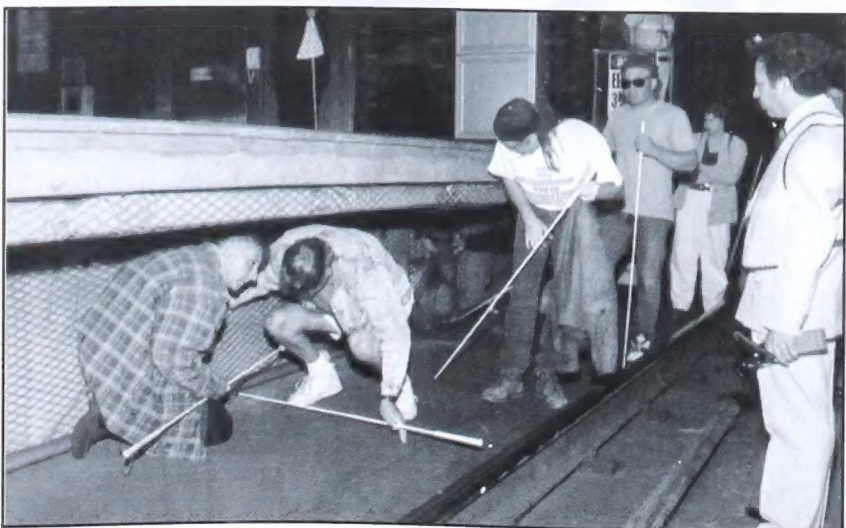
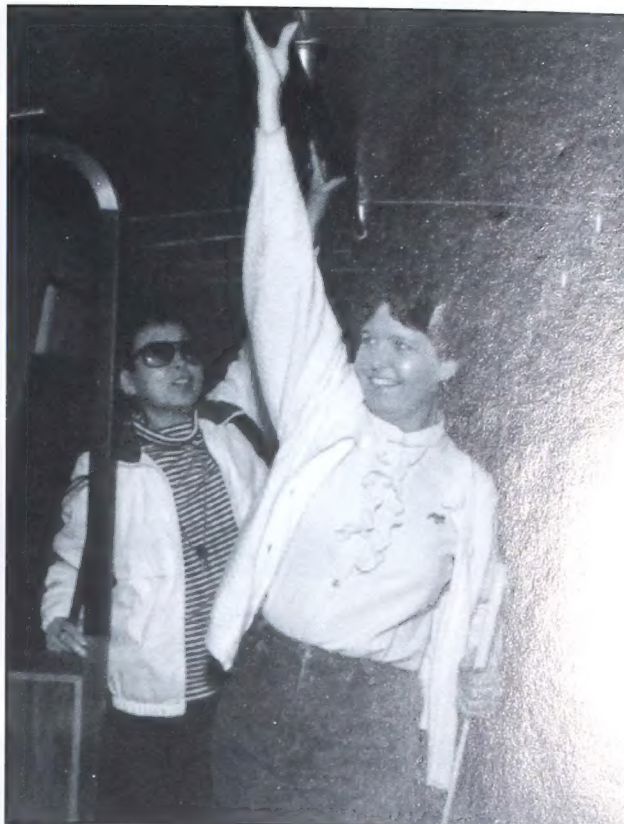
Orchestrating the strategy of the BART team were "Coach" Bill McCoy, Hayward Shop Manager, and "Coach" Tamar Allen, Richmond Shop Manager.

The annual rodeo competition is sponsored by the American Public Transit Association. **b**



- That little word "not" makes a big difference. BARTalk should have reported that Bob Rosen was recognized for his suggestion that train operators be cautioned to not raise the P-handle when in the reverse jog mode. And we should have included George Yared in this suggestion. He received a check for \$75. Congratulations, George! Sorry for the confusion, Bob!
- BARTalk should have pointed out that the Government and Community Relations Department, which is headed by Mitch Stogner, was the internal coordinator for the "We Mean Clean Week."
- And somehow we managed to garble the spelling of Ed Snell's name. Our apologies, Ed.
- Brenda Blue, who came to work for BART more than 18 years ago, has joined the Transportation Department as a Senior Administrative Analyst for the Richmond Line. Formerly she was an Assistant Affirmative Action Analyst and had coordinated the District's Summer Youth Program from 1982 until this summer.
- Corene Tyson, a Station Agent, asked BARTalk to convey a "thank you" to everyone who sent cards, flowers and gifts in connection with the recent death of her mother. "Your thoughtfulness and kindness will never be forgotten," she told us.
- Bill Missimer has joined the staff of Operations Liaisons as Budget Coordinator. He has been with the District for 25 years. (Is this new posting related to Bill's skill on the piano keys?)
- George Rohrback has been selected as Project Manager for the systemwide Security Improvement Program. The program includes constructing police zone command facilities, installing callboxes and improved lighting in parking lots and upgrading police radio in parking structures.
- BARTalk says "Thanks!" to Debora Faniel for alerting us that 50 adults and children toured the Morrison Knudson plant in Pittsburg on Take Our Daughters to Work Day. The District's new revenue passenger cars are being assembled at the MK plant. **b**

System Safety Department Provides Reassurance Training for Visually Impaired Students



HIGH-SCHOOL STUDENTS



GET OPPORTUNITY FOR



REAL-JOB EXPERIENCES



DURING SUMMER AT BART

It's 'Frosting on the Cake' for Gene

Gene Burkman, one of the supervising project engineers on the Dublin/ Pleasanton Extension, has a special place in his heart for the San Francisco Bay Area and BART.

He began his civic engineering career building the first generation of BART back in 1963, and today is one of the few people working on the second generation who bridges the years between both phases of work.

"Back then, we felt we were transit pioneers," Gene says, as he recalls those early days of planning and building. "BART was on the leading edge of system design and development—still is in many ways. Everybody involved evaluated a huge range of possibilities before implementing the system."

One of the challenges they faced on the original system was the matter of train control. "We faced some early problems in the train control system," Gene says, "but we worked hard at the problem and eventually got all the bugs worked out. Today's modern systems are computerized—quite a difference from the old days."

Gene says, "It was a great experience to work on the original system and see all of the pieces come together, but over the years much of the original technology and construction techniques have changed," he says. "The early sixties forged new concepts in mass transit that have paid off for the Bay Area," he says.

Gene left BART in 1973 to join the engineering team building Atlanta's transit system. He has been building transit systems for most of his working life and has worked on systems around the



Gene Burkman

country and around the world, from Miami, Houston, Sacramento and Los Angeles, to Taiwan. But he never forgot the Bay Area, and in 1991 when the opportunity to return as Supervising Project Engineer on the extension came up, he was happy to accept the new challenge.

Of course there were some very memorable moments from the original construction that will always be hard to top. "There were genuine engineering wonders on the first BART Project—the Transbay Tube and the Berkeley Hills Tunnel," Gene says.

Although building the Dublin/ Pleasanton Extension may not be as dramatic as the Transbay Tube, every massive construction job has its particular difficulties and challenges to overcome. "We're building bridges, laying tracks, installing electronic systems. Regardless of how

many times you do it, there is always something new," he says.

Coming back to build the Dublin/Pleasanton Extension is "frosting on the cake" for his career, according to Gene. "We always loved the Bay Area and wanted to live here," he says, "and now we do again." He and his wife live in Pleasanton, and he rides BART most every day, catching a BART Express Bus in Pleasanton to the Bayfair Station and then the train to downtown Oakland.

"I'm a firm believer in transit," says Gene, who has saved his ticket from the inaugural BART ride in 1972. "I know it will be a great benefit when we get finished out to Dublin and Pleasanton." He plans to be on that first ride, too. **b**



EMPLOYEE SUGGESTIONS



Gabriel Luchessi, Diane Odom and Robert Scott each received BART's congratulations and a check for \$150 for recent suggestions aimed at improving operational procedures.



Gabriel's suggestion was to install hoses on reels mid-way in the shop, to be used when servicing the batteries. The reels reduce the clutter of hoses in the area, thereby creating a safer work environment.



Diane suggested affixing warning or caution decals at fax machines in station agent booths. The decals would instruct agents to turn off the machine before responding to an emergency on the platform. Turning off the fax keeps the PABX line open. An open line might save a life!



Robert's suggestion was to apply a light lubricant to the interior and exterior key switches of the revenue vehicles. This application will not only lessen the possibility of malfunction to the switches, but protect them from corrosion caused by exterior car-cleaning chemicals. **b**

BART ANNUAL EMPLOYEE HOLIDAY FAIRE



BART's annual employee Holiday Faire gives you a chance to put your baking and your arts-and-craft skills to good use. Homemade arts and craft, cookies and candies will be for sale at the Faire at the Plaza level of LMA on Thursday, December 8, and Friday, December 9. Your family members can participate, too. Space is limited. Call Vicki Wills now at ext. 7115.

"I'm Going to Try It Anyway."

BART Education Fair A Definite Success, Thanks to Linda Mallory, Women's Advocacy Council

Linda Mallory, Systems Service Senior Clerk in the Transportation Department, is not a person to be easily discouraged.

When a teacher at the University of Phoenix, headquartered in San Ramon, said "No!" to her idea for a class project, she said to herself, "I'm going to try it anyway."

Her idea was to organize an Education Fair for BART employees who were interested in opportunities for adult education. Her teacher didn't like the idea, so Linda completed a different class project, but she didn't give up on the idea of an Education Fair at BART.

She talked to the Women's Advocacy Council (formerly known at the Women's Task Force). Council members liked her idea. The Council sponsored an Education Fair and selected Linda as Chairperson. It was held in May at the MetroCenter Auditorium.

Schools represented were: City University, Santa Clara; Dominican College of San Rafael; Heald's Technical and Business School, Oakland; Holy Names College, Oakland; ITT Technical Institute, Hayward; John F. Kennedy University, Orinda; Laney College, Oakland; Saint Mary's College of California, Oakland; San Francisco State University; University of Phoenix; and the University of San Francisco.

Cooperating were BART's Department of Training, Information Systems Training and Technical/Transportation Training.

More than 200 BART employees attended the event to hear from representatives of the schools about the opportunities for adult education in the Bay Area. The representatives also talked about what their schools offered for college-bound high school students. Many BART employees attended with their teen-aged children.

Linda has worked for BART for seven years. Thanks to the adult program for Phoenix, she now holds a B.S. in Business Administration and Management. **b**



CPR CPR CPR CPR CPR CPR

Knowing how to apply cardiopulmonary resuscitation, better known as CPR, could save a life. That life might be the life of a child, a loved one—maybe an absolute stranger—but it's a life that you might be able to save. Call Ext. 6292/6293.

CPR CPR CPR CPR CPR CPR



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Perf. condition, 7 yr. old, 12,000 BTU window air, cools up to 650 sq. ft. New at \$412, will sell for \$225.

GREAT CAMERA FOR SALE!

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GREAT LOOKING COUCH FOR SALE

Excellent condition, 6 ft. cream in color, w/rattan on ft. arm base. Must sell. \$350 FIRM. Call Vicki at ext. 7115.

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Time to clean out those drawers, closets and garages! BARTalk's Trash and Treasures

column offers you an opportunity to pick up some extra cash for those unwanted items you no longer need. Send your ads—no telephone calls—to Trash & Treasures, BARTalk, LMA-1 or Fax to 464-7103.

Youth – continued from front page

Academy, the Engineering Academy and the International Trade and Transportation Academy, which are specialized training entities of the Oakland Public School District.

"Because of the academies, with their focussed emphasis, our summer youth arrive at BART better prepared to really take on a meaningful job," Brenda says. "Our program is not some kind of 'make-work' situation. BART really benefits and, of course, so do the students."

As in past years, the summer job project begins with an orientation session in the MetroCenter auditorium. The student participants get a chance to talk to their prospective BART supervisors, meet students from other schools and hear about BART in general.

Brenda assigns students to available jobs in advance of the orientation, based on the student applications and the BART jobs available. But she makes many on-the-spot changes in job assignments at the orientation, after the students have a chance to hear about BART directly and to talk to their prospective supervisors.

As part of the orientation, Roy Mays, who works for Volunteers of America, spoke on the subject, "You Can Make It If You Try." As you might expect, Brenda says, Mays donated his time.

Jolie Vega and Linda Vasquez talked about BART in general, mixing a little bit of history with a description of what BART does and where it's headed.

"The youth summer job program wouldn't work at BART without a whole lot of cooperation," Brenda says. She notes that the program is supported at all levels of BART. She thanks Jane Faria of Local 1555 and Milt Waalkens of Local 790 for their continuing support.

She also thanks Jane Wong, Elizabeth Suesue and Margaret Levi, of the Human Resources Department, for their help over the years.

She has a special thanks for Mary Perez of Affirmative Action, who stepped in to coordinate the program in July, when Brenda transferred to the Transportation and System Service Department. Last, but not least, she conveys thanks to Edwin Kung, Department Manager of Affirmative Action. "He's been very supportive of the program," Brenda says. **b3**

BARTalk

A publication for and about the employees of the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District

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